

# Postmarks

Compiled by SSG Alberto Betancourt

From Army Posts Around the World

Paula J. Randall Pagan



USAMU's SPC Aaron F. Rebout (left) gives a few marksmanship tips to CPT Heath Harrower of the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Benning's Easley Range.

Fort Benning, Ga.

## Marksmanship Team Trains Special Forces

ALTHOUGH their 2002 competitive season is over, the champion shooters of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Service Rifle Team continue passing along their skills and techniques to other soldiers.

Led by SSG Jared N. VanAalst, the team recently conducted an advanced rifle marksmanship clinic for 5th Special Forces Group members.

"We do advanced rifle marksmanship 'train the trainer' for all units, but now we're doing tactical training for special-operations units or any unit with a sniper section," said VanAalst.

He said the type of competitive shooting training the marksmen conduct correlates with the tactical training special-ops units conduct.

"We did this training so our detachment could improve its long-range marksmanship capabilities, said CPT Heath Harrower of the 5th SFG. "We're also getting techniques that we can employ for our sniper teams."

Harrower said the team emphasized basic rifle marksmanship skills — but it was more

than a refresher course.

Both on the ranges and in the classroom, the special forces soldiers learned skills such as how to read and correct for wind and to estimate range.

"The two most important things to work on are trigger squeeze and sight alignment. That's what we've been emphasizing," said Harrower "We learned variations and different techniques for trigger squeeze employed by a sniper team when engaging a target. We also used the Noptel computerized marksmanship training system, which was a very effective tool to track sight alignment before, during and after the shot."

Besides shooting on USAMU ranges, the soldiers also toured the unit's custom firearm shop, where they spoke with gunsmiths and machinists who build and modify USAMU weapons, and reloaders and ammunition technicians who ensure each round is competition-quality.

"This training enhanced our long-range shooting capability," said Harrower. "We would do it again, and recommend that other members of our unit go through the training."

— Paula J. Randall Pagan, USAMU Public Affairs Office

SPC Jacob Boyer



Soldiers

### Camp Takigahara, Japan

## Soldiers Train with Japanese Counterparts

SOLDIERS from the 25th Infantry Division joined their counterparts from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force at Camp Takigahara during Operation Keen Sword/Orient Shield 2003.

The three-week-long training exercise, which stems from agreements in the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, included everything from day and night live-fires to platoon attack tactics and bunker-destroying tactics.

"This exercise gave our troops the experience of deploying overseas and working in a multinational scenario," said MAJ Richard Wilson, executive officer for the 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf. Regiment.

The Hawaii-based soldiers said the weather, which at times was below 40 degrees, became a challenge but not an obstacle.

"It was difficult training because we don't train in the cold," said PFC James Wilson, an M-203 gunner with Company A.

Despite the cold, the 25th ID soldiers persevered.

"It was a successful mission," said LTC Scott McBride, the battalion commander. "We came back a better-trained outfit and strengthened our relationship with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. We also made some good friends along the way." — SGT Monica R. Garreau, 17th PAD

SGT Monica R. Garreau



**Soldiers of the 25th Inf. Div. move toward the next objective during joint U.S.-Japanese training undertaken as part of Operation Keen Sword/Orient Shield 2003.**

### Camp New York, Kuwait

## Engineers Clear the Way in Kuwait

ENGINEERS and cavalry scouts led the way for the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team during recent training exercises in Kuwait.

"My soldiers, along with members of the 9th Cavalry Regiment, worked together to breach and mark obstacles which covered more than 100 kilometers," said LTC Mike Presnell, commander for the 10th Engineer Battalion. "Their efforts helped the brigade move quickly and complete its mission."

He said the exercise allowed the engineers to understand the number of vehicles a maneuver force would be moving through the breaches during combat.

Presnell also said the exercise allowed practice of the command and control of the brigade, and tested the entire logistics chain.

Using D-7 bulldozers and M-9 armored combat earthmovers, the engineers breached wire obstacles and cut through berms. Other activities included seizing bridgeheads. Everything culminated in a live-fire exercise at Udairi Range Complex. — SPC Jacob Boyer, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**An M-113 armored personal carrier rolls through the final portion of an obstacle during the 3rd Infantry Division training exercise in Kuwait.**

